Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of December 9, 2002 to December 13, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	October			Canada's new house prices were up 0.5% in October, up 4.7% from the previous year. Out of 21 regions surveyed, 14 had increases, 5 were unchanged and 2 had declines from the previous month. The largest monthly increase was reported in Hamilton (1.5%), while the largest decline was reported in Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-0.2%). Annually, the largest increases were experienced by Ottawa-Gatineau (9.1%) and Edmonton (8.4%).
Canada	111.8	0.5%	4.7%	
Edmonton	124.3	0.2%	8.4%	
Calgary	144.5	0.3%	5.7%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	November 179.4	0.1%	7.6%	The Composite Leading Index was up 0.1% in November, after three straight months of 0.2% increases. Four of the ten components recorded increases, led by housing (up 1.4%). The main source of weakness was the stock market, with the S&P / TSX stock price index declining by 1.8% in November.
New Motor Vehicle Sales	October			New motor vehicle sales in Canada rose to 148,626 in October. This total was 1.5% higher than the previous monthly record set in December 2001. New passenger cars increased 0.6% from September, while truck sales rose 3.7%. Only New Brunswick (-1.4%) experienced a decline in October. British Columbia (5.4%) and Quebec (4.8%) experienced the largest gains. Alberta showed a 0.3% increase, with a 6.0% gain from August 2001.
Alberta	17,231	0.3%	6.0%	
Canada	148,626	2.0%	11.1%	
Urban Housing Starts (Thousands)	November			Canadian urban housing starts reached 213,500 in November, down 3.1% from October. New Brunswick had the greatest monthly increase (27.9%), followed by British Columbia (19.0%). Decreases were experienced in six provinces, led by Newfoundland (-30.4%) and Saskatchewan (-12.5%). In Alberta, there was a 1.4% decline from October, with a 29.9% increase from August 2001.
Alberta	41,700	-1.4%	29.9%	
Canada	213,500	-3.1%	27.4%	